GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3344
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003
RECOVERY OF ANTIQUES FROM SMUGGLERS
RADHA MOHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many stolen/smuggled antique statues worth crores of rupees have been recovered recently near Jhalawar-Kota region of Rajasthan and some of the smugglers were caught with these stolen idols;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made to check the smuggling and theft of valuable idols from the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Rajasthan Police have reported recovery of large number of antiquities from various parts of Rajasthan, including Jhalawar-Kota region, and the matter is under investigation.

(c) Steps have been taken by the Archaeological Survey of India in consultation with the law enforcing agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation, Customs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the State Government Police to check thefts of antiquities and their smuggling by stepping up vigilance and intensifying checking at the customs exit-channels as well as enforcement of the Antiquities & Art Treasures Act, 1972. Armed guards as well as security agencies have also been deployed at selected monuments / museums.